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A History of the Jewish People, during the Babylonian, Persian, and Greek Periods. By CHARLES FOSTER KENT, Ph.D., Professor of Biblical Literature and History, Brown University. With maps and chart. New York : Charles Scribner's Sons, 1899. Pp. xx + 380. \$1.25, *net*.

This volume, while treating of a distinct period of Hebrew history, completes the series of volumes on the general subject which Professor Kent has prepared for popular reading. It is marked by all the admirable characteristics of the preceding volumes—clearness of presentation, warmth of sympathy, modernness of view. It is by all odds the best popular discussion of this important period of Jewish history, a period so full of difficulties and by many regarded as so barren in interest as to fail of adequate consideration in most of the popular manuals. We are beginning to see now that it is, in some respects, the most important age in the history of the Hebrew people—the age in which their religious books received their final impress, and their religious ideas and institutions took on the form and content out of which Christianity sprang. Much investigation on the part of the most advanced historical and critical students of the Old Testament has been devoted to this period within the last decade. Professor Kent has taken note of this, and his pages reflect some of the newest conclusions. While recognizing the strong arguments in favor of a reversal and reconstruction of the events of the Ezra-Nehemiah period proposed by continental scholars and presented clearly and cogently by Professor Kent, we are not yet persuaded that these views will stand. Space does not permit us to state here what seem to be difficulties raised by these new positions, and certainly a debt of gratitude is due to Professor Kent for bringing the subject so fully and ably before the minds of all biblical students. No more profitable book in Old Testament lines could be taken up by biblical students for their next year's study than this admirable volume. We have noted one serious misprint : on p. 327 "198 B. C." should be 168 B. C.

G. S. G.

Christian Missions and Social Progress. A Sociological Study of Foreign Missions. Vol. II. By REV. JAMES S. DENNIS, D.D. Chicago : Fleming H. Revell Co., 1899. Pp. xxvi + 486. \$2.50, *net*.

The appearance of the second volume of this work gives suitable occasion for insisting on the high value of the presentation of facts